

Appl. No. 09/665,034
Amdt. Dated 12/16/2004
Reply to Notice of Allowance mailed 10/06/2004

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Notice of Allowance mailed on 10/06/2004. Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments and these remarks be entered prior to payment of the issue fee. Previously, claims 14-20, 35-38, 40-49, and 51-55 were allowed and pending. Claims 17, 41, and 54 have been cancelled by this response. No other claim has been amended by this response. No new claim has been added. Accordingly, claims 14-16, 18-20, 35-38, 40, 42-49, 51-53, and 55 are now pending. Of the pending claims, claims 15, 20, 40, and 52 are independent claims.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this response.

CLAIM CANCELLATION

Claims 14-20, 35-38, 40-49, and 51-55 were indicated as being allowed in the Notice of Allowance mailed on 10/06/2004.

Independent claims 15, 40, and 52 include a limitation of portion(s) of the conductive strip being removed by drilling.

Claims 17, 41, and 54 depended respectively from independent claims 15, 40, and 52. However, dependent claims 17, 41, and 54 recited a limitation of portion(s) of the conductive strip being removed by etching. This etching limitation in these dependent claims may be inconsistent with the drilling limitation in the independent claims from which they depend.

Accordingly, Applicant has cancelled dependent claims 17, 41, and 54 without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to put forward the subject matter of claims 17, 41, and 54 in a continuation application without the drilling limitation of the independent claims 15, 40, and 52.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cancellation of dependent claims 17, 41, and 54 does not constitute substantive new matter and is proper under 37 CFR 1.312.

As the remaining pending claims 14-16, 18-20, 35-38, 40, 42-49, 51-53, and 55 have not been amended by this response; they remain in condition for allowance.

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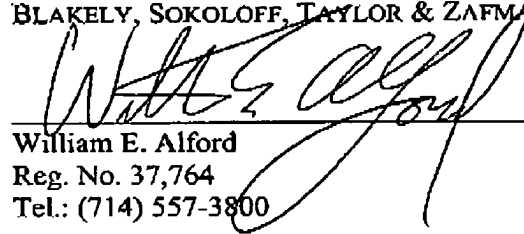
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments and remarks be entered prior to payment of the issue fee. If there are any questions, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's undersigned representative by telephone at (714) 557-3800.

If any petition is necessary for consideration of this paper, it is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including any petition fees, to Deposit Account 02-2666 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: December 16, 2004

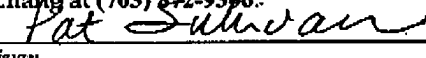


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office under 37 CFR §1.8 on: December 16, 2004 to Examiner Rick Kiltae Chang at (703) 872-9396.



Pat Sullivan
Date 12/16/04

Docket No: 42390P6139C

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